Criteria for grant of DA to the Central Government Employees

*432. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANACE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria fixed by Government for grant of dearness allowance to the Central Government employees;

(b) what are the recommendations of the Pay Commission regarding the grant of dearness allowance to Central Government employees in every January and July of the year and whether these recommendations have been accepted by Government; and

(c) whether the dearness allowance sanctioned from time to time and particularly w.e.f. 1.1.2000 is in accordance with the criteria fixed by Government; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) and (b) The All India Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers) (AICPI) (IW) Series with 1982 as the base year is used for calculating Dearness Allowance payable to Central Government employees. Dearness Allowance is a compensatory payment. Compensation is paid for the percentage increase above the twelve monthly average of AICPI of 306.33 obtaining on 1.1.1996. Compensation is sanctioned twice a year with effect from 1st January and 1st July payable with the salary for March and for September respectively. These criteria are as per the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission which have been accepted by the Central Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Comprehensive programme for development of tourism

*433. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any comprehensive programme to develop the tourism sector in the country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?